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E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PFOR, AR
SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF UCR LEGISLATORS

REF: STATE 207370

1. DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO FORMER UCR LEGISLATORS HIPOLITO SOLARI YRIGOYEN AND MARIO ABEL AMAYA FROM THEIR HOMES AUGUST 17 HAS AROUSED GRAVE CONCERN AND SEARCH ON THE PART OF GOVT OFFICIALS. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 18) THAT HARGUINDEGUY HIMSELF HAS PERSONALLY INVESTIGATING THE CASE BUT THAT CHECKS WITH SECURITY OFFICES HAD TURNED UP NO NEW INFORMATION. UCR PRESIDENT RICARDO BALBIN AND OTHER TOP UCR LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN AND MET WITH GOVT AND MILITARY OFFICIALS. BALBIN TOLD THE PRESS WEDNESDAY THAT NO WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS HAD BEEN FILED, ADDING, "IN CASES LIKE THESE, I DON'T BELIEVE IT WOULD DO MUCH GOOD."

2. SOLARI YRIGOYEN WAS WELL KNOWN TO SEVERAL EMBASSY OFFICERS. POL COUNSELOR HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH FORMER'S FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES IN UCR. INTERESTINGLY, THEY ARE NOT BLAMING GOA ITSELF FOR HIS DISAPPEARANCE; ON CONTRARY, THEY SAY THEY HAVE TALKED WITH ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF VIOLA AND FIFTH CORPS COMMANDER A. ITARTE AS WELL AS HARGUINDEGUY AND ARE CONVINCED LATTER ARE AS SHOCKED AND DISTURBED AS UCR ITSELF OVER

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DISAPPEARANCE. SOURCES IN UCR ARE UNANIMOUS IN ATTRIBUTING RESPONSIBILITY TO EXTREMIST RIGHT-WING GROUPS ACTING WITHOUT OFFICIAL ORDERS (THOUGH THEY MAY VERY WELL BE OFF-DUTY POLICEMEN).

3. SOLARI YRIGOYEN WAS REPORTED MISSING BY HIS WIFE TUESDAY (AUGUST 17) WHEN HE FAILED TO MEET HER AT THE AIRPORT. THE HOUSE WAS IN TOTAL DISARRAY AND A BULLET HOLE IN THE WALL INDICATED HE HAD BEEN FORCEABLY TAKEN. A HYPODERMIC SYRINGE WAS ALSO FOUND IN THE HOUSE. THE FAMILY CAR, MISSING ON TUESDAY, WAS FOUND ABANDONED YESTERDAY (AUGUST 19).

4. ON SAME DAY (AUGUST 17) MARIO ABEL AMAYA WAS TAKEN FROM HIS HOUSE AT 0300 HOURS BY THREE UNIDENTIFIED MEN. AMAYA REPORTEDLY LEFT QUIETLY, TELLING HIS MOTHER HE WOULD BE BACK SHORTLY. AMAYA HAD BEEN ARRESTED PREVIOUSLY (ON AUGUST 3) AND RELEASED TWO DAYS LATER.

5. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THIS IS NOT FIRST ATTEMPT AGAINST SOLARI YRIGOYEN. ON CONTRARY, HE WAS ONE OF FIRST VICTIMS OF RIGHT-WING EXTREMIST TRIPLE A, WHICH IN 1974 EXPLODED A BOMB IN HIS CAR WHICH LEFT HIM WITHOUT USE OF HIS LEGS FOR ALMOST A YEAR. WHILE IN U.S. TERMS SOLARI YRIGOYEN WOULD BE CONSIDERED MODERATE, OR MODERATELY TO THE LEFT, IN HIGHLY-POLARIZED ARGENTINE BODY POLITIC, FACT THAT HE HAD OFFERED LEGAL COUNSEL TO TERRORISTS DURING LANUSSE GOVT WAS ENOUGH TO BRAND HIM AS "BOLSHEVIK TERRORIST" IN EYES OF RIGHT WING HERE. EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO KNEW HIM REGARDED HIM AS MODERATELY PROGRESSIVE AND CONVINCED CONSTITUTIONALIST, ADVOCATE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND OF PROFOUNDLY DEMOCRATIC CONVICTIONS.

6. AMAYA TOO HAD BEEN DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR TERRORISTS IN 1972. HE HAD BEEN ARRESTED THEN BY LANUSSE GOVT AND SUBSEQUENTLY, LIKE SOLARI YRIGOYEN, HAD RECEIVED DEATH THREATS FROM TRIPLE A.

7. FRIENDS OF TWO MEN HAVE TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE THAT THEY HAVE FEW HOPES OF SEEING THEM ALIVE AGAIN.
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